REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 an 14-19 are allowed, which action is greatly appreciated.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected, which action is respectfully traversed.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 12 has been amended to better clarify the chassis of the present invention and claim 13 has been amended to have proper antecedent basis in claim 12. Further, new claims 20-23 are added.

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended and claims are respectfully requested.

RESPONSE TO THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 12 AND 13 BASED ON OWEN AND GB 2057167

OWEN

Owen relates to a liquid crystal display for an odometer and discloses a frame 60 having a peripheral sidewall and a through hole 74 shown in Fig. 5, as the Action asserts. However, In Owen, the liquid crystal cell 66 is supported by housing 12 with the intervention of connector 76 and does not contact the frame 60.

Moreover, Owen teaches that the rear wall of the frame 60 comprises a "translucent web 64.... Forward of the web 64, the frame defines a recess for snuggly receiving a liquid crystal cell 66." (Col. 3, lines 22-27) Hence, the frame 60 of Owen does not include a support structure comprising first and second opposite main surfaces affording any type of mounting thereon.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's contention as to the applicability of Ex parte Masham. The web 64 clearly is not a "support structure", and there necessarily is no

teaching in the reference to the effect that anything can be mounted on the web 64, since it must be translucent to permit light passage therethrough from the lamps 38 in the assembled condition--and intended use-- of the liquid crystal display of Owen.

Claim 12 defines the chassis of the present invention to be "a support structure having first and second opposite main surfaces affording mounting thereon and support of a display panel and a circuit board, respectively." The recitation of a support structure having first and second main surfaces functioning as support surfaces is not merely a statement of an intended use but, rather, a definition of the structural characteristics of the support structure and its respective first and second opposite main surfaces--which clearly differentiates from and patentably distinguishes over the "web 64" of Owen.

GB 2057167

GB 2 057 167 does not disclose a chassis in accordance with the present invention, having first and second opposite main surfaces affording mounting thereon a display and a circuit board for driving same, respectively.

Instead, this reference relates to a time piece, such as a wristwatch, having a watch case 11 and a supporting frame 10 including a radial wall or seating portion denoted by numeral 12 and partial sidewall portions 14. A circuit board 32 is pressed into the frame 10 until it is firmly seated on the seating portion 12 and engaged by attachment hooks 18 which snap over the edges thereof. Liquid crystal cell connectors 34, of conductive rubber material, are placed on the circuit board 32, a reflective plate 36 is placed on this circuit board 32 and, further, an upper glass plane 38, attached previously to a liquid crystal display 40 and having conductors connected to electrodes of the liquid crystal display cell 40, is then placed upon the liquid crystal cell connectors 34 and pushed forwardly into the module supporting from 10. Liquid crystal cell securing hooks 16, pushed apart in that process, snap back to their original positions and secure the glass plate 38, liquid crystal display cell 40, liquid crystal cell connectors 34 and circuit board 32 to the module supporting frame 10.

Clearly, the GB '167 structure does not have a support structure comprising first and second, opposite main surfaces affording mounting thereon a display panel and a circuit board, respectively, nor is there a peripheral wall extending about the support structure.

Claim 13/12 further recites the provision of through holes connecting the first and

second opposite main surfaces and affording a passageway for passage therethrough of a flexible cable to electrically connect the circuit board and the display panel, when mounted on a support structure--and no such through holes are present in either the watch case 11 or the circuit board 32.

Accordingly, GB '167 is altogether remote from the present, claimed invention as defined in claims 12 and 13 and the new dependent claims 20 to 23.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 12 and dependent claims 13 and 20-23 patentably distinguish over the references, taken singly or in any proper combination and, there being no other objections or rejections, that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: November 17, 2003

By: _____
H. J. Staas
Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
on November 17, 2003
STAAS & HALSEY
By: _____
Date: 11-17-03